

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 15 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, and 5 have been amended to more distinctly claim the invention. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification, e.g., stabilizers Nos. 4a and 5 on page 25 of the specification. No new matter has been introduced.

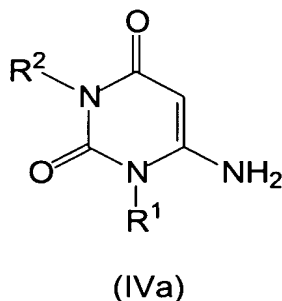
THE REJECTION

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 – 15 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO03/004558. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention, as presently claimed, relates to a stabilizer system for stabilizing halogen-containing polymers against thermal degradation, comprising

(a) at least one perfluoroalkanesulphonate salt and

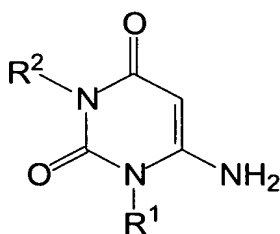
(b) at least one or more indoles and/or ureas and/or alkanolamines and/or aminouracils, wherein the aminouracil can be, inter alia, a compound of the structure



wherein R^1 and R^2 , independently of one another, are H, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy- and/or hydroxyl-substituted phenyl, or are phenyl- C_1 - C_4 alkyl which has C_1 - C_4 alkoxy and/or hydroxyl substitution on the phenyl ring, C_3 - C_6 alkenyl, C_5 - C_8 cycloalkyl, or are C_3 -

C₁₀ alkyl interrupted by at least one oxygen atom, or are CH₂-CHOH-R₃, wherein R₃ is H, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₂-C₄ alkenyl, C₄-C₈ cycloalkyl, phenyl, C₇-C₁₀ alkylphenyl or C₇-C₁₀ phenylalkyl, with the proviso that R¹ and R² are not both hydrogen. Accordingly, R¹ and R² are not alkyl, unsubstituted phenyl, or both hydrogen.

WO03/004558, on the other hand, describes a composition comprising fluoroalkanesulfonic acids and, inter alia, aminouracils of the formula:

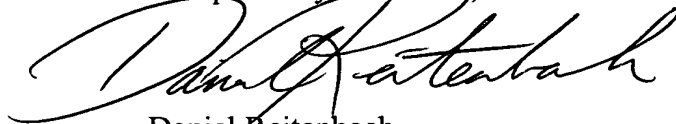


wherein R¹ and R², independently of one another, are H, alkyl, or aryl, unsubstituted or substituted by alkyl groups. WO03/004558 does not teach or suggest any other aminouracils. Accordingly, WO03/004558 does not teach or suggest the aminouracils utilized in Applicants' claimed stabilizer composition.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1 – 15 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO03/004558, is improper. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



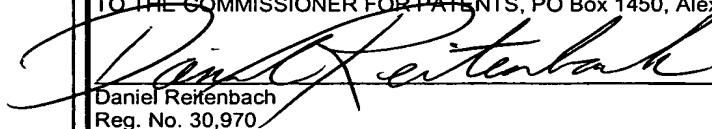
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